

# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**June 11, 2002**

Department of Natural Resources  
Room 314

## **Minutes**

### Members Present:

SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - Water Rights  
AUSTIN, Lloyd – Water Resources  
CANNING, Michael - DWR  
ELDREDGE, Sandy - UGS  
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela - DOGM  
MORTENSEN, Duane - DERR  
PITKIN, Jay – DEQ - Water Quality  
GEORGESON, Michael - DEQ - Drinking Water  
JOHNSON, Wes – DPR  
MORTENSEN, Dustin – UDOT

### Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR  
LANDURETH, Brenda – DNR  
GARDNER, Kirk - BLM  
AREY, Jeremy - SUWA

## **I. Approval of Minutes**

Bill Schlotthauer, the chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Wes Johnson made a motion to approve the May 14, 2002 minutes. Pam Grubaugh-Littig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **II. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects**

Kirk Gardner, U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced that Annette Delos Santos is on a temporary detail for three months in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A Wide Hollow Reservoir meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2002, in room 3710. DNR staff will be invited by Sherm Hoskins. Kevin Conway will discuss why recreation issues were left out of the Environmental Assessment.

Wes Johnson, State Parks and Recreation (DPR) provided an update on park closures. State Parks and Recreation will return Big Sand Wash to Moon Electric with a quick claim. The Minersville property will go to Beaver County for their administration. Jordan River Parkway will be managed to Salt Lake County with funding. Weber County and Ogden City are interested in managing Fort Buenaventura with funding.

The State of Utah is waiting for a ruling from the judge after court arguments in Denver on Legacy Highway.

Grubaugh-Littig reported that last August, Skyline Mine ran into a large amount of groundwater. They will need to move the mine north. They are pumping into Eccles Lake

and Scofield Reservoir. Delay going into another lease because they cannot dewater the mine fast enough. Emery and Carbon County water users are considering the mine as a potential source of water. The counties have been meetings to discuss recovering the water. It has been reported in the Sunny Advocate. Contact Mark Page or Casey Ford in the Division of Water Rights (DWRi). DWRi will continue to ensure that water rights are protected and kept whole, especially springs in the area.

The North Emery Springs near Rilda Canyon is drying up. The committee discussed if the drought conditions or dewatering of the mine could be contributing to the lack of spring flow. Water users are involved in the permitting process and they have been concerned that the mines are drying up the springs. The burden of proof is on the water users. It is usually a discussion between professionals.

Pam Grubaugh-Littig also reported that MagCorp and two coal mines are in bankruptcy. Bill Schlotthauer attended the Western State Engineers Conference/Workshop in Reno, Nevada and heard that Las Vegas is looking for water for growth, which may require building desalinization plants in Los Angeles, California. She previously proposed to reopen the Colorado River Compact, but they are not planning to renegotiate the river. Las Vegas would build and operate desalinization plants to trade for Colorado River water.

River Basin Coordinating Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2002, at 9:00 to 2:00 p.m., in room 314. This meeting is chaired by Natural Resource Conservation Service. Bill Schlotthauer will present research that he has been conducting on distributing groundwater by priority date and other information from his Reno trip. Lloyd Austin will be giving a Great Salt Lake presentation.

Tooele Valley residents are meeting with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to research and model groundwater development and to determine what the impacts will be. They will be meeting at the USGS office every other month. RDCC staff will keep everyone updated on this issue.

Bill Schlotthauer announced that Teresa Wilhelmsen from the Weber Office will be replacing Ed Feldt, at the Utah Lake Office.

BLM San Rafael Monument field trip on May 15-16, 2002 went very well and was very informative. Several committee members attended. Pam Grubaugh-Littig provided an overview of some of the issues/areas discussed on the field trip (Price River Resource Area RMP, off-highway vehicles, wilderness designations, heritage management areas). Chris Cannon has a bill in congress to help bring tourism dollars into this area. The perception of status of the monument is confusing or difficult to understand. The committee thanked Annette for putting together this field trip.

Drought monitoring maps/information can be obtained on a website ([www.NOAA.gov](http://www.NOAA.gov) or [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)). Areas that are classified as exceptional drought

have stream flows that are less than ten percent of normal is now in San Juan County and is getting close to including Kane and Washington counties. According to the website, exceptional drought areas include northern Arizona, southwest and north central Colorado, southeastern Utah, northwest New Mexico and San Juan County, Utah. The plains area west of Glacier National Park has been declared a drought disaster. Drought information is updated every Thursday afternoon on the NOAA website.

The governor has to declare the state a drought disaster area for counties to request federal funding. Each county then may submit a request for federal funding. In some areas, fish and wildlife managers have raised the fishing limits to remove fish prior to dewatering from severe drought conditions. Approximately 25 Utah counties have filled for drought assistance funding. Bob Morgan gave a testimony last week on drought conditions.

### **III. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library**

No discussion on proposed items was necessary.

#### **Other Announcements**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1050.

### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.